Part A: Planning

My client, **Mr Scott** (*Assistant Curriculum Manager for Year 12 at Dartford Grammar School*), recently spoke with me about students who were finding it difficult to keep accurate records of their CAS experiences, often finding themselves to be losing the papers that they were writing down details on (Appendix A). The students were also struggling to find new opportunities for a varied CAS programme in their local area.

I originally suggested that a mobile application could be developed, allowing students to log into an account on their smartphone and keep a digital record of their CAS experiences. This would make it quicker and easier for them to add experiences, would also be accessible to them at any time, and doesn't require them to look after lots of sheets of paper. In addition, I proposed that the app would allow students to view experiences that other students have taken part in near to their geographical location if they choose to share them. After consulting with the client (Appendix B) it was agreed that a mobile app would be a suitable solution, since students always carry their mobile phones with them, and therefore it would be easier for them to use a mobile app rather than a desktop or web application. A survey amongst sixth form students showed that Android was the most common mobile operating system (Appendix C), so it was decided that an Android App would be most appropriate. I suggested some names, and the client decided that TrackMyCAS would be most suitable (Appendix B).

TrackMyCAS is an Android App that allows IB students to record their CAS Experiences, and to find new CAS opportunities that are near to them.

Since an Android Application is being developed, Java will be used, because Android Apps can only be made with this language. Android XML will be used in order to define the layouts, again since this is the only permitted language. In order to develop the backend, I will use PHP since it is a server side programming language that I am familiar with. SQL will also be used in order to query a database, since there are no other languages which can be used for this (Appendix D).

One method which could be used by students is an Excel spreadsheet, however since it is not purpose built for this task, some students may find it confusing and difficult to maintain their CAS log in this way. In addition, this does not solve the problem of students being not being able to locate CAS experiences near them. Searches on Google, the Google Play Store (Android), and the App Store (Apple) revealed only one similar piece of software, 'ManageBac', which is available for desktop and iOS devices. This software, however, requires schools to purchase expensive subscriptions.

TrackMyCAS is unique because:

1	Schools don't need to install the system: students can download the app themselves
2	It is the only Android app designed solely for this purpose
3	It shows users CAS opportunities near to them

For further comparison see Appendix E.

TrackMyCAS has enough differences from its alternatives that its development is justified.

As agreed with the client (Appendix F), the project will be deemed successful if students can:

1	Add new CAS experiences with various details
2	View experiences that they have previously added
3	View details of CAS opportunities near to their location
4	Edit the experiences that they have already added
5	Upload images with their CAS experiences
6	Choose to add their experience locations to the 'public map'
7	Export their data to submit to school
8	Access their account on any Android device using their email address and password

Word Count: 524